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LabVIEW™ Quick Reference Card

LabVIEW Documentation Resources

Context Help

When you move the cursor over LabVIEW objects, the **Context Help** window displays basic information about each object. Select **Help»Show Context Help** to display the **Context Help** window.

LabVIEW Help

Includes information about LabVIEW programming concepts, step-by-step instructions for using LabVIEW, and reference information about LabVIEW VIs, functions, palettes, menus, and tools. Access the *LabVIEW Help* by selecting **Help»Search the LabVIEW Help**.

LabVIEW Examples

LabVIEW searches among hundreds of example VIs you can use and incorporate into VIs that you create. You can modify an example VI to fit an application, or you can copy and paste from one or more examples into a VI that you create. Browse or search the example VIs by selecting **Help»Find Examples**. You also can right-click a VI or function on the block diagram or on a pinned palette and select **Examples** from the shortcut menu to display a help topic with links to examples for that VI or function.

LabVIEW Web Resources

Includes a list of links to online National Instruments resources. Select **Help»Web Resources** to access the LabVIEW resources at **ni.com**. Resources available to you include the following:

Products and Services
- Upgrades
- Training courses
- Seminars and user groups

Solutions
- Industry solutions
- Customer solutions

Support
- LabVIEW support
- Product documentation

NI Developer Zone
- Discussion forums
- Example VIs

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Keyboard Shortcuts

You also can access this list of keyboard shortcuts in the *LabVIEW Help*.

Objects and Movement

Shift-click	Selects multiple objects; adds object to current selection.
↑↓→← (arrow keys)	Moves selected objects one pixel at a time.
Shift-↑↓→←	Moves selected objects several pixels at a time.
Shift-click (drag)	Moves selected objects in one axis.
Ctrl-click (drag)	Duplicates selected object.
Ctrl-Shift-click (drag)	Duplicates selected object and moves it in one axis.
Shift-resize	Resizes selected object while maintaining aspect ratio.
Ctrl-resize	Resizes selected object while maintaining center point.
Ctrl-drag a rectangle	Inserts more working space on the front panel or block diagram.
Ctrl-A	Selects all items on the front panel or block diagram.
Ctrl-Shift-A	Performs last alignment operation on objects.
Ctrl-D	Performs last distribution operation on objects.
Double-click open space	Places a free label on the front panel or block diagram if automatic tool selection is enabled.
Ctrl-mouse wheel	Scrolls through subdiagrams of a Case, Event, or Stacked Sequence structure.

Navigating Front Panels and Block Diagrams

Ctrl-E	Displays block diagram or front panel.
Ctrl-#	Enables or disables grid alignment. On French keyboards, press the <Ctrl-"> keys. (Mac OS) Press the <Command-*> keys.
Ctrl-/	Maximizes and restores window.
Ctrl-T	Tiles front panel and block diagram windows.
Ctrl-F	Finds objects or text.
Ctrl-G	Searches VIs for next instance of object or text.
Ctrl-Shift-G	Searches VIs for previous instance of object or text.
Ctrl-Shift-F	Displays the **Search Results** window.
Ctrl-Tab	Cycles through LabVIEW windows.
Ctrl-Shift-Tab	Cycles the opposite direction through LabVIEW windows.
Ctrl-Shift-N	Displays the **Navigation** window.
Ctrl-I	Displays the **VI Properties** dialog box.
Ctrl-L	Displays the **Error list** window.
Ctrl-Y	Displays the **History** window.

Navigating the VI Hierarchy Window

Ctrl-D	Redraws the window.
Ctrl-A	Shows all VIs in the window.
Ctrl-click VI	Displays the subVIs and other nodes that make up the VI you select in the window.
Enter †	Finds the next node that matches the search string.
Shift-Enter †	Finds the previous node that matches the search string.

† After initiating a search by typing in the **VI Hierarchy** window

Debugging

Ctrl-↓	Steps into node.
Ctrl-→	Steps over node.
Ctrl-↑	Steps out of node.

File Operations

Ctrl-N	Creates a new VI.
Ctrl-O	Opens an existing VI.
Ctrl-W	Closes the VI.
Ctrl-S	Saves the VI.
Ctrl-P	Prints the window.
Ctrl-Q	Quits LabVIEW.

Basic Editing

Ctrl-Z	Undoes last action.
Ctrl-Shift-Z	Redoes last action.
Ctrl-X	Cuts an object.
Ctrl-C	Copies an object.
Ctrl-V	Pastes an object.

Help

Ctrl-H	Displays the **Context Help** window.
Ctrl-Shift-L	Locks the **Context Help** window.
Ctrl-? or F1	Displays the *LabVIEW Help*.

Note The <Ctrl> key in these shortcuts corresponds to the (Mac OS) <Option> or <Command> key or (Linux) <Alt> key.

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Tools and Palettes

Ctrl	Switches to next most useful tool.
Shift	Switches to Positioning tool.
Ctrl-Shift over open space	Switches to Scrolling tool.
Spacebar [1]	Toggles between two most common tools.
Shift-Tab [1]	Enables automatic tool selection.
Tab [1]	Cycles through four most common tools if you disabled automatic tool selection by clicking the Automatic Tool Selection button. Otherwise, enables automatic tool selection.
KLJ I	Navigates temporary Controls and Functions palettes.
Enter	Navigates into a temporary palette.
Esc	Navigates out of a temporary palette.
Shift-right-click	Displays a temporary version of the Tools palette at the location of the cursor.

[1] If automatic tool selection is disabled

SubVIs

Double-click subVI	Displays subVI front panel.
Ctrl-double-click subVI	Displays subVI block diagram and front panel.
Drag VI icon to block diagram	Places that VI as a subVI on the block diagram.
Shift-drag VI icon to block diagram	Places that VI as a subVI on the block diagram with constants wired for controls that have non-default values.
Ctrl-right-click block diagram and select VI from palette	Opens front panel of that VI.

Execution

Ctrl-R	Runs the VI.
Ctrl-. [1]	Stops the VI.
Ctrl-M	Changes to run or edit mode.
Ctrl-Run button	Recompiles the current VI.
Ctrl-Shift-Run button	Recompiles all VIs in memory.
Ctrl-L [1]	Moves key focus inside an array or cluster.
Ctrl-K [1]	Moves key focus outside an array or cluster.
Tab [1]	Navigates the controls or indicators according to tabbing order.
Shift-Tab [1]	Navigates backward through the controls or indicators.

[1] While the VI is running

Wiring

Ctrl-B	Removes all broken wires.
Esc, right-click, or click terminal	Cancels a wire you started.
Single-click wire	Selects one segment.
Double-click wire	Selects a branch.
Triple-click wire	Selects entire wire.
A	While wiring, disables automatic wire routing temporarily.
Double-click (while wiring)	Tacks down wire without connecting it.
spacebar	Toggles automatic wiring while moving objects.
Shift-click	Undoes last point where you set a wire.
Ctrl-click input on function with two inputs	Switches the two input wires.
spacebar	Switches the direction of a wire between horizontal and vertical.

Text

Double-click	Selects a single word in a string.
Triple-click	Selects an entire string.
Ctrl-J	Moves forward in string by one word.
Ctrl-I	Moves backward in string by one word.
Home	Moves to beginning of current line in string.
End	Moves to end of current line in string.
Ctrl-Home	Moves to beginning of entire string.
Ctrl-End	Moves to end of entire string.
Shift-Enter	Adds new items when entering items in enumerated type controls and constants, ring controls and constants, or Case structures.
Esc	Cancels current edit in a string.
Ctrl-Enter	Ends text entry.
Ctrl-=	Increases the current font size.
Ctrl--	Decreases the current font size.
Ctrl-0	Displays the Font dialog box.
Ctrl-1 [1]	Changes to the Application font.
Ctrl-2 [1]	Changes to the System font.
Ctrl-3 [1]	Changes to the Dialog font.
Ctrl-4 [1]	Changes to the current font.

[1] In the Font dialog box

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Editing, Execution, and Debugging Tools

The VI toolbar contains the following tools. Refer to the *LabVIEW Help* for information about other tools on toolbars.

- **Show Context Help Window** — Displays the Context Help window.
- **Run** — Runs the VI.
- **Broken Run** — Indicates that the VI contains errors. Click the button to list errors.
- **Run Continuously** — Runs the VI until you abort or pause execution.
- **Abort Execution** — Aborts execution of the top-level VI.
- **Pause** — Pauses or resumes execution.
- **Highlight Execution** — Displays an animation of the block diagram when you click the Run button.
- **Retain Wire Values** — Saves data values that pass through wires during VI execution.
- **Step Into** — Opens a node and pauses.
- **Step Over** — Executes a node and pauses at the next node.
- **Step Out** — Finishes executing the current node and pauses.
- **Text Settings** — Changes the font settings for the VI.
- **Align Objects** — Aligns objects along axes.
- **Distribute Objects** — Spaces objects evenly.
- **Resize Objects** — Resizes multiple front panel objects to the same size.
- **Reorder** — Reorders objects if they overlap, including moving forward and moving backward.

The Tools palette contains the following tools. Refer to the *LabVIEW Help* for information about other tools on the Tools palette.

- **Breakpoint Tool** — Sets breakpoints on nodes and wires to pause execution at that location.
- **Probe Tool** — Creates probes on wires to display intermediate values in a running VI.

Data Type Terminals

- **Signed integers** (0): I8 8-bit; I16 16-bit; I32 32-bit; I64 64-bit
- **Unsigned integers** (0): U8 8-bit; U16 16-bit; U32 32-bit; U64 64-bit
- **Floating-point** (0.0): SGL Single; DBL Double; EXT Extended
- **Complex floating-point** (0.0 + i0.0): CSG Single; CDB Double; CXT Extended
- **Boolean** (FALSE)
- **String** (empty string)
- **Path** (<Not A Path>)
- **Reference number**
- **Enumerated type**
- **Cluster**: Numeric; Mixed data
- **Array**: 1D; 2D
- **Waveform**
- **Digital waveform**
- **Digital**
- **I/O name**
- **Variant**
- **Dynamic**
- **Picture**
- **Time stamp** (12:00 a.m., 1/1/1904, Universal Time)

Note Default values appear in parentheses ( ).

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